STAR WARS
LANDO
MARVEL
SOULE
MALEEV
MOUNTS
002

LANDO
Part II

Following a deal gone sour with crime boss Papa Toren, LANDO CALRISSIAN has been tasked with one last score. With the help of his long-time friend LOBOT, and the aid of two cloned alien warriors (Aleksin and Pavol) and an Ugnaught antiquities expert (Sava Korin Pers), Lando has set off on what should've been an easy job.

Their target was an Imperial luxury yacht undergoing a refit at the Sienar Fleet Systems shipyard in orbit around the planet Castell. The heist was successful - but unbeknownst to Lando, the ship actually belongs to EMPEROR PALPATINE.

Now, this crew of thieves must escape the might of the Empire, or face certain death....

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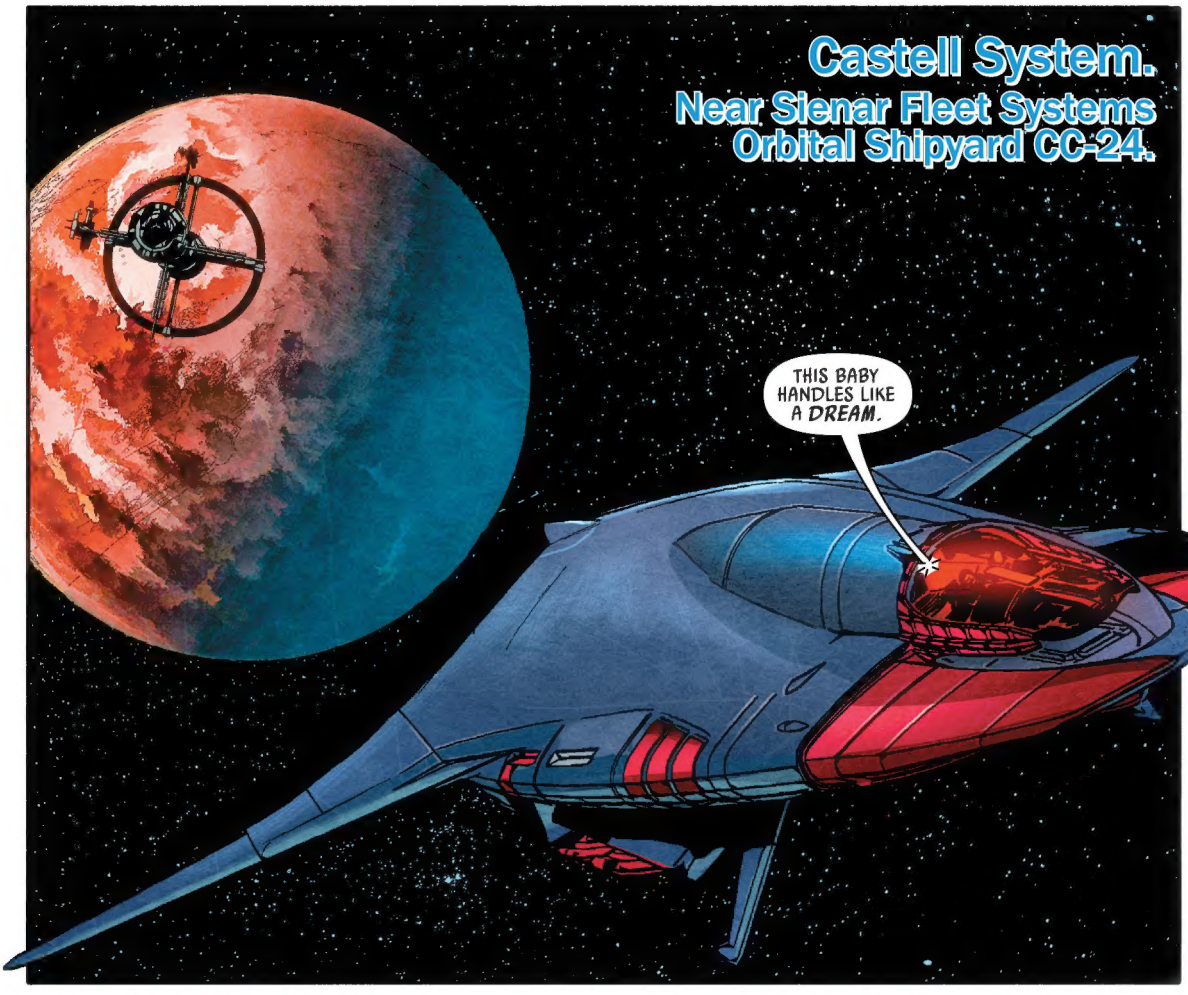
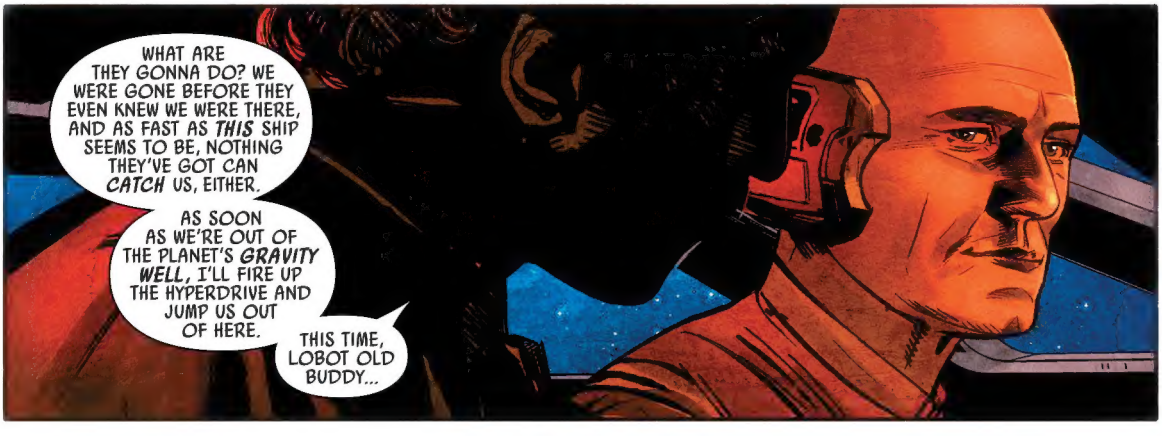

Castell System.
Near Sienar Fleet Systems Orbital Shipyard CC-24.
THIS BABY HANDLES LIKE A DREAM.

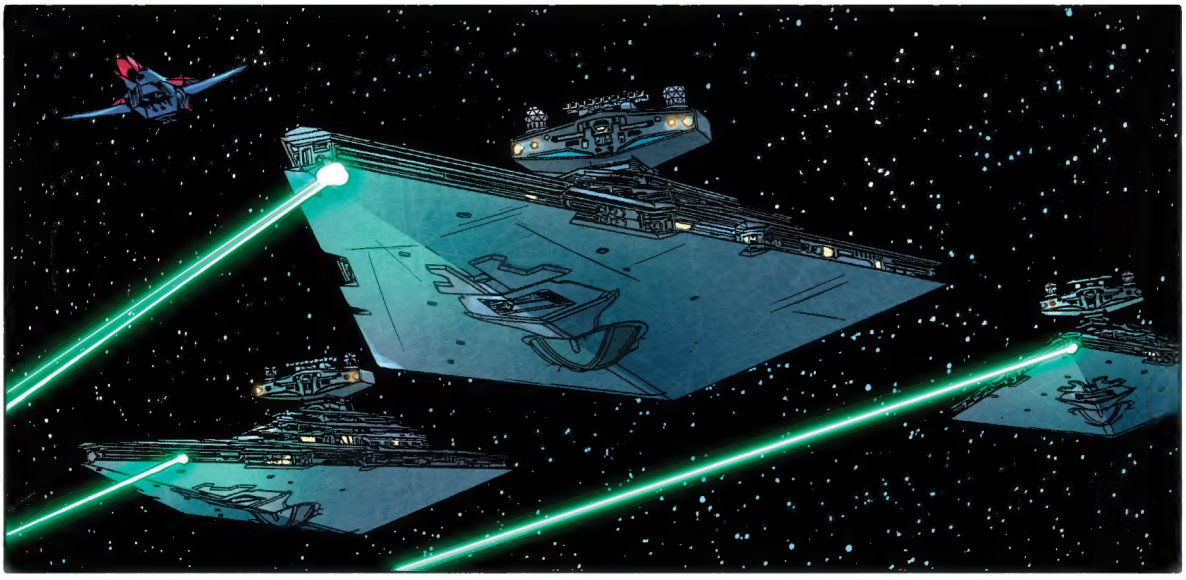
SOMEWHERE OUT THERE, LANDO, THE FALCON JUST GOT JEALOUS.
I DON'T HAVE THE FALCON ANYMORE, LOBOT. BUT I DO HAVE THIS.
DO YOU? I'M NOT SURE THEY'LL LET US JUST FLY AWAY WITH THIS THING. I MEAN, WE STOLE A YACHT FROM AN IMPERIAL SHIPYARD.


WHAT ARE THEY GONNA DO? WE WERE GONE BEFORE THEY EVEN KNEW WE WERE THERE, AND AS FAST AS THIS SHIP SEEMS TO BE, NOTHING THEY'VE GOT CAN CATCH US, EITHER.
AS SOON AS WE'RE OUT OF THE PLANET'S GRAVITY WELL, I'LL FIRE UP THE HYPERDRIVE AND JUMP US OUT OF HERE.
THIS TIME, LOBOT OLD BUDDY...

"...FINALLY...
"...I THINK WE'RE GOOD."
YOU SURE ABOUT THAT?
THREE? THEY SENT THREE STAR DESTROYERS?
BAD NEWS.
NO, THIS IS GOOD.
CAN YOU IMAGINE HOW MUCH THIS THING MUST BE WORTH?
TO US? NOTHING, ONCE WE ARE DEAD.
CHEER UP, PAL. SUDDENLY...
...I FEEL VERY MUCH ALIVE.

CAPTAINS SHAN AND CONRO--WE ARE ORDERED TO RECOVER THE EMPEROR'S PLEASURE CRAFT, THE CORVETTE CURRENTLY ATTEMPTING TO ESCAPE THE CASTELL SYSTEM.
CALL SIGN IMPERIALIS.
YOU DON'T THINK SENDING THREE STAR DESTROYERS TO DEAL WITH A GROUP OF THIEVING COLONIAL SCUM WAS PERHAPS... OVERKILL, COMMODORE IDEL?
WHAT I THINK, CAPTAIN SHAN, IS THAT EMPEROR PALPATINE WANTS THAT SHIP BACK. BADLY.
IF I WERE YOU, I WOULD FOCUS ON THAT.

BUT FIRST, THE EMPEROR INSTRUCTED ME TO PROVIDE AN...OBJECT LESSON ON THE CONSEQUENCES OF FAILURE TO RESPECT HIS PROPERTY.
THE SHIPYARD, IF YOU PLEASE.
YES, SIR. RIGHT AWAY.



STAND BY IN CASE I NEED YOU.
BUT I EXPECT THIS ALL TO BE OVER QUICKLY.
"I AM TAKING MEASURES TO END THIS FARCE AS WE SPEAK."
LEAD DESTROYER DROPPED *MINES!*
SENSORS SUGGEST THEY'RE *GRAVITY-BASED.*
THOSE THINGS ARE DESIGNED TO STICK TO HULLS BEFORE THEY DETONATE--THEY'LL WARP THE LOCAL SPACE SO WE CAN'T JUMP AWAY.
THAT'LL LEAVE US DEAD IN THE WATER, LANDO!
YEAH, LO. AND THEN WE'LL JUST BE DEAD.

UH...ALL MINES DESTROYED. HOW DID YOU *DO* THAT, LANDO? I'VE NEVER SEEN COUNTERMEASURES LIKE THAT.
I...I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING. MUST HAVE BEEN SOME SORT OF AUTOMATIC DEFENSE SYSTEM.
WHAT *IS* THIS SHIP?
I DON'T KNOW, PAL, BUT I *LIKE* IT.
POWERING UP THE HYPERDRIVE.
HNH.
A MILLION CREDITS TO WHOEVER BRINGS ME THAT SHIP.

WHAT'S HAPPENING? THE WHOLE SHIP JUST THRUMMED.
WE'VE ATTRACTED A LITTLE ATTENTION, SAVA KORIN.
I HANDLED IT. DON'T WORRY. WE'LL BE OUT OF HERE IN A MINUTE.
I AM LOOKING THROUGH THE VIEWSCREEN, AND I BELIEVE I SEE A STAR DESTROYER. THAT CANNOT BE. THIS MISSION WILL BE EASY, YOU SAID.
BUT NOTHING ABOUT A STAR DESTROYER IS EASY. AND SO, THAT CANNOT BE A STAR DESTROYER.
WELL, IT'S ONE OF 'EM, ANYWAY. COUPLE MORE OUT THERE SOMEWHERE.
LANDO, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO US?
LISTEN, KORIN, I SEE THIS AS A GOOD THING.
HOW?
THEY COULD HAVE BLOWN US UP THE MINUTE THEY JUMPED INTO THE SYSTEM, BUT THEY DIDN'T. THEY TRIED TO USE GRAVITY MINES AGAINST US.
THEY DON'T WANT TO KILL US. THEY WANT TO CAPTURE US.
I DON'T CARE HOW FANCY THIS SHIP IS--THEY COULD ALWAYS BUILD ANOTHER ONE. NO. IF THEY WANT TO TAKE US, IT'S BECAUSE THERE'S SOMETHING ON THIS SHIP.
SOMETHING IRREPLACEABLE. SOMETHING PRICELESS. YOU GET ME?

THRRRMM
WHA--
TRACTOR BEAMS! TWO OF THE STAR DESTROYERS ARE TRYING TO LOCK IN ON US!
TWO BEAMS?
YES. THEY'RE COMING IN FROM OPPOSITE DIRECTIONS.
PERFECT. FEED THE COORDINATES TO MY PILOTING COMPUTER.
UPLOADING. WHY?
IF I'M GOING TO FLY INTO THOSE BEAMS, I NEED TO KNOW EXACTLY WHERE THEY ARE.
...
THERE IS NO WAY YOU ACTUALLY JUST SAID THAT.

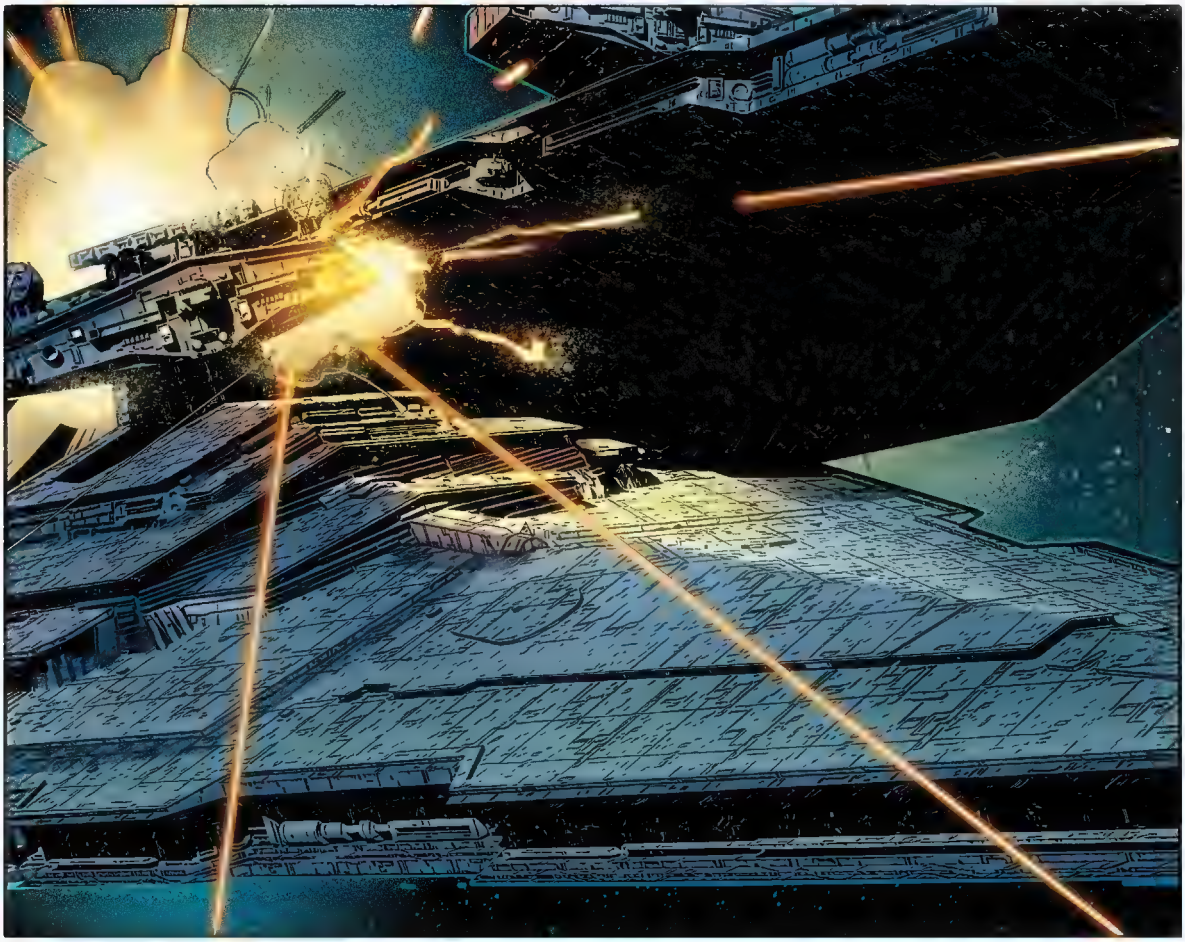
WHOA, NOW, JUST HOLD ON.
EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE JUUUST FINE.
ALEKSIN DOESN'T SEEM TO THINK SO, AND NEITHER DO I, CALRISSIAN, YOU LYING NIK.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, TURN US OVER IN EXCHANGE FOR CLEMENCY? THESE ARE IMPERIALS--THEY DON'T KNOW THE MEANING OF THE WORD!
YOU KNOW WHAT KIND OF PILOT I AM! YOU THINK I WANT TO GET CAPTURED? JUST TRUST ME!
NO, NO--THERE ARE TWO TRACTOR BEAMS. I CAN GET US OUT OF THIS. I'VE DONE THIS MANEUVER A THOUSAND TIMES!
TRUST HIM, HE SAYS.
I GUESS THINGS CAN'T GET MUCH WORSE.
THANK YOU.
NOW, HOLD ON, EVERYONE.
THIS MAY GET A LITTLE BUMPY.

TRACTOR BEAMS ORIENTING TOWARDS TARGET, CAPTAIN CONRO. THE *IMPERIALIS* IS MOVING FAST, BUT WE SHOULD HAVE HER IN A MATTER OF MOMENTS.
WHAT IS SHEN'S SHIP DOING?
SENSORS INDICATE THEY HAVE ALSO DEPLOYED THEIR TRACTOR BEAM. WE SHOULD GET THERE FIRST, THOUGH.
SEE THAT YOU DO, LIEUTENANT.
EASY, EASY...
EASY DOES IT...
BEAM LOCKED, SIR. WE HAVE THE *IMPERIALIS*.
WELL DONE! BRING HER ABOARD, AND SEND CAPTAIN CONRO OUR VERY SINCERE CONDOLENCES.
WAIT...
HA!

"YOU FOOL!"

YOU'VE LOCKED ONTO THE BEAM FROM SHAN'S SHIP!
DISENGAGE! BEFORE IT'S--

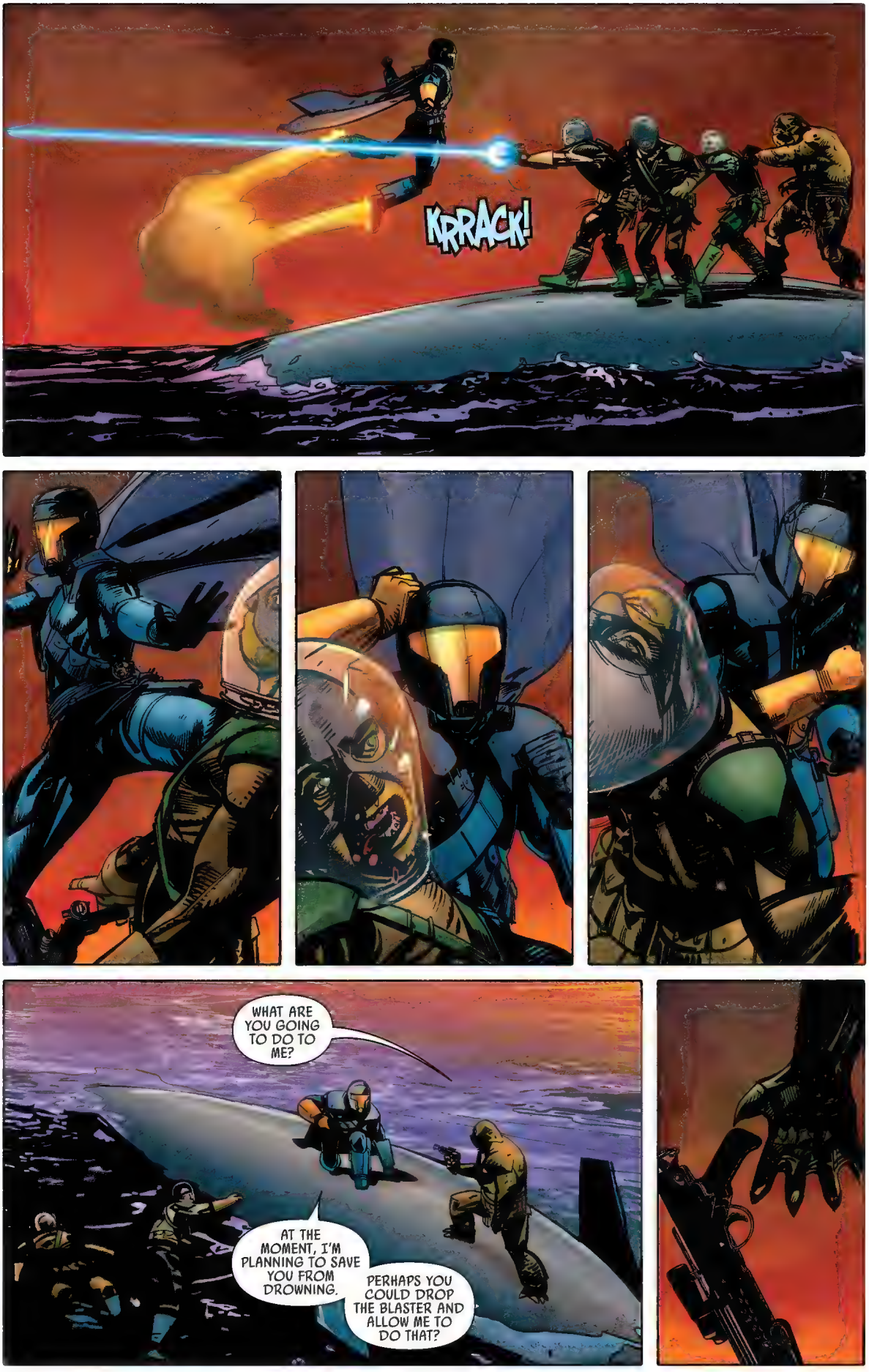
--TOO LA--



The Inner Rim.
Amethia Prime.
THOOOM!
NOOOO!
YOU WANT WE SHOULD GO BACK, BIG STRING? LOOK FOR SURVIVORS, LIKE?
DON'T BE AN IDIOT. DRIVE.

FASTER!
GO FASTER!
THE SCOPE'S CLEAN, BIG STRING. I THINK WE'RE SAFE.
DON'T BE A FOOL. WE AREN'T EVEN CLOSE TO SA--
OH NO.
WEAPONS! NOW! RIGHT N--

KRRRACK!
MY FORTRESS... DESTROYED! TWENTY CYCLES SPENT BUILDING MY EMPIRE... GONE!
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS TO ME? WHO ARE YOU?
MY NAME IS CHANATH CHA.
AS FOR WHY, BIG STRING...
...SOMEONE OUT THERE REALLY DOESN'T LIKE YOU.


KRRACK!
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO TO ME?
AT THE MOMENT, I'M PLANNING TO SAVE YOU FROM DROWNING.
PERHAPS YOU COULD DROP THE BLASTER AND ALLOW ME TO DO THAT?

WHATEVER THEY'RE PAYING YOU FOR ME, I CAN BEAT IT.
HOW, EXACTLY? FIRST, I AM INCREDIBLY EXPENSIVE, AND SECOND, AS YOU NOTED, I JUST BLEW UP YOUR FORTRESS, AND WITH IT THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE PROCEEDS FROM YOUR VARIOUS NEFARIOUS ACTIVITIES.
I HAVE OFF-WORLD HOLDINGS! PLEASE, YOU'LL SEE, IF YOU'LL JUST--
KTWEE
HUH.
SORRY ABOUT THIS, MY FRIEND, BUT WHEN THIS PARTICULAR CLIENT CALLS, YOU DROP EVERYTHING.
W-WHAT...?
MY LORD PALPATINE. HOW MAY I SERVE YOU?

THE IMPERIALIS HAS LEAPT AWAY INTO HYPERSPACE, COMMODORE IDEL.
WHAT NOW, SIR?
I HAVE A TASK FOR YOU. I HAVE ASSIGNED IMPERIAL FORCES, BUT I CONFESS A CERTAIN LACK OF FAITH THAT THEY WILL SUCCEED.
MY ARMIES SERVE WELL AS A HAMMER, BUT I SUSPECT THIS UNDERTAKING IS MORE SUITED TO A NEEDLE.
I HAVE NO NEEDLE SHARPER THAN CHANATH CHA.
THANK YOU, MY LORD. I WILL NOT FAIL YOU. WHAT MUST I DO?
"THERE IS A SHIP. THE IMPERIALIS. IT BELONGS TO ME, AND YET SOMEONE HAS BEEN SO FOOLISH AS TO STEAL IT."
FOR ME, LIEUTENANT?
THIS, I THINK. BUT FOR YOU?
"I WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH TRANSPORTATION-- PERHAPS THE ONLY VESSEL IN MY GREAT FLEET EQUIPPED TO LOCATE THE IMPERIALIS.
I HEAR THE REBELLION IS HIRING.
CONSIDER IT DONE, EMPEROR.
SUCCESS WILL RESULT IN AMPLE REWARD, CHANATH CHA. BUT BE WARNED--THE IMPERIALIS IS A DANGEROUS VESSEL UNDER THE BEST OF CIRCUMSTANCES.
IT CONTAINS ITEMS THAT ARE... IMPORTANT TO ME. I WOULD NOT SEE THEM FALL INTO OTHERS' HANDS.
IF YOU CANNOT RETRIEVE IT...

Deep Space.
"...THEN YOU MUST DESTROY IT."
I CANNOT BELIEVE YOU PULLED THAT OFF.
I CAN.
A THOUSAND TIMES, EH? YOU DID THAT MANEUVER A THOUSAND TIMES?
IN MY HEAD. IT WORKED, DIDN'T IT? DON'T RUIN THE MOMENT.
HEY NOW, SAVA KORIN, HOW ABOUT YOU EARN YOUR SHARE OF THIS PAYDAY AND TELL US WHAT WE ACTUALLY STOLE HERE.
PAPA TOREN GETS THE SHIP, THAT WAS THE DEAL...
...BUT WE GET EVERYTHING IN IT.
WELL, THEN... IT'S GOOD NEWS ALL AROUND TODAY.
THIS VESSEL... TOP TO BOTTOM... NOTHING BUT TREASURE.

...AND THAT IS A GUNGAN FERTILITY TOTEM NATIVE TO THE NABOO SYSTEM, IN THE CHOMMELL SECTOR. INCREDIBLY OLD, INCREDIBLY RARE.
INCREDIBLY VALUABLE?
TO THE RIGHT COLLECTOR, OF COURSE.
NICE.
THIS ENTIRE SHIP IS A WORK OF ART. I SUSPECT IT MIGHT BE A CUSTOM JOB BY RAITH SIENAR HIMSELF.
THAT WOULD EXPLAIN THE UNUSUAL WEAPONS SYSTEMS.
YES. HE SUPPOSEDLY HOLDS BACK HIS TRULY UNIQUE TECH FOR PREFERRED CLIENTS.
THIS IS THE ONLY AREA OF THE SHIP I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO ACCESS. IT'S A CENTRAL CHAMBER, AND IT IS VERY WELL SECURED.
NO PROBLEM, SAVA. I'VE GOT IT.
OR THE IMPLANTS DO, ANYWAY.
SHMM
THERE. GOT IT. LIKE I SAID, NO--
--PROBLEM...

To be continued....

A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away is a lot easier to get to than you think – and we want to hear from you! Write us at StarWars@Marvel.com if you want to make it onto a future letters page. Don't forget to mark the letter "OK TO PRINT."